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DELAWARE ASC FARM NEWS



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EARLY CALL FOR CORN LOANS

CCC Loans on 1953-crop corn in Delaware will mature May 31, 1954, rather than July 31, 1954.

The early call date was determined to protect farmers against losses that would occur if their corn suffers damage from the angoumois moth which is usually quite prevalent in Delaware by mid-summer. The announcement is being made at this time to allow farmers the longest possible time to negotiate for sale where the local price may make it advantageous for the farmer to repay his loan and sell commercially.

Since the loan rate of \$1.76 per bushel for No. 3 corn is based on shelled corn delivered to a railroad loading point, farmers usually find it desirable to sell even at somewhat less than the loan rate. And many farmers will find it difficult to spare the time to make delivery to CCC at the time loans will mature.

Feeders and dealers, too, have an interest in the disposition of local corn. If delivered to CCC, it probably will be shipped out of the state for storage, only to be replaced by other corn shipped in later.

CORN SUPPORT SET AT \$1.62 BU.

Minimum price support rates for 1954-crop corn will be based on \$1.62 per bushel. This is 90 percent of the February 15 corn parity price. If parity is higher on October 1, the minimum will be revised upward.

Under the 1953 program, the Delaware rate of \$1.76 per bushel for #3 corn was based on a national average support price of \$1.60 per bushel, which was 90 percent of the October 1, 1953, parity price for corn.

Since corn acreage allotments are in effect in the commercial areas in 1954, the price support rates within the area (Delaware included) will reflect the 90 percent of parity with appropriate differentials; rates in the non-commercial producing area will be 75 percent of the rates in the commercial area.

Rates for Delaware for price-support loans and purchases will be announced later.

"FARM PROGRAM MUST BENEFIT ALL PEOPLE," SAYS MORSE

The farm program recommended to Congress by President Eisenhower is a farm program for all people, Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse told a group of farmers and businessmen recently.

"All of the 161 million citizens of the United States must be constructively served if farmers are to be most prosperous," the Under Secretary declared. "No narrow, selfish, or short-sighted farm program will meet the test.

"Taxpayers, businessmen, labor, industry, consumers -- all citizens along with farmers will be more prosperous and enjoy a higher level of living if the Nation has a sound workable farm program.

"We dare not focus attention on price alone. Farm income is the product of price times volume -- dollars times bushels, pounds, or tons...Labor, too, must have full employment in productive enterprises. When workers have good incomes, it helps insure strong markets for farm products."

SECRETARY BENSON ANNOUNCES SERIES OF ACTIONS TO IMPROVE DAIRY SITUATIONS

Many dairy farmers are concerned about the future. What can dairymen do on their own to meet the challenge? Each farmer must make his own adjustments depending on his resources, his markets and his inclinations. Some may find it necessary to shift to other farm enterprises or to off-farm employment; others may find better management will give higher returns. Each dairy farmer will have to think these things out for himself, however, Secretary Benson announced the first two of a series of moves by the Department of Agriculture, aimed at improving the dairy situation during the marketing year beginning April 1.

- (1) A promotion program to push consumption of dairy products will begin April 1 and reach a peak during June-Dairy Month. The dairy industry has assured the Department of its enthusiastic cooperation.
- (2) The Department is launching a nationwide educational program to increase culling of low-producing dairy cattle. Many experts believe that in recent months culling of dairy herds has been far below normal due to a combination of relatively low beef prices (which have strengthened considerably in recent months) and the incentive for excessive production through high rigid price supports.

"We expect to take further actions periodically during the year," Secretary Benson stated. "Our over-all dairy program falls into two parts. First, we are aiming at increasing consumption of dairy products, especially fluid milk. Second, we must dispose of government-held stocks of dairy products without demoralizing the commercial market.

"As to the first part of the over-all program, when the support level goes to 75% of parity on April 1, as has already been announced, this will be reflected in many areas in a reduction in the prices of butter and cheese. Also, we hope and expect that consumers will have to pay less for fluid milk

in many marketing areas. This should stimulate greater consumption. If we would use as much dairy produce per capita now as we did in 1945, in one year the extra consumption would wipe out 7.5 billion of the 8 billion pounds of milk equivalent the government holds in storage.

"For the second part of the over-all program, we are prepared to take a loss on government stocks of dairy products. We are working very closely with the commercial trade and are making progress toward agreement on methods of moving government stocks, especially of butter, into the hands of consumers at lower prices. We estimate that it will be at least 30 days before such a program can go into effect, however. In addition, we are continuing to make headway on methods of expanding markets for dried milk. We will entertain proposals for sales of dairy products abroad, providing they do not involve price benefits not available to U. S. consumers.

PREMEASUREMENT OF 1954 CORN ACREAGE

Corn growers can arrange for official measurement of their 1954 farm corn acreage allotment before planting time.

Premeasurement service on corn is being provided on a cost basis in all Delaware counties. To get the service, the farm operator must file a written request with his county ASC office before the closing date set by the county committee. The charge for this service in all counties is \$4 per farm plus 10¢ for each acre in the farm corn acreage allotment. Payment must be made at the time the request for measurement is filed.

Premeasurement is entirely optional with the farmer and is offered as a service to farmers who prefer an official measurement as a planting guide. As soon as possible after corn is planted, all farms will be visited to determine the acreage of corn planted on each farm. At that time any farm will be considered to be within the farm acreage allotment if the corn is planted within the premeasured area.

The premeasurement service will be of value only to farmers who plan on planting within their farm acreage allotment and who are interested in obtaining price support on their corn.

PLANNING THE 1955 ACP

All ASC county committees have been asked to arrange for meetings of county agricultural workers and local farm leaders to discuss the kind of Agricultural Conservation Program desired for 1955. Meetings for this purpose have been scheduled in Sussex and Kent counties for April 14 and in New Castle county for April 19.

County recommendations are due in the State office on April 22. A State meeting to review county recommendations and to formulate State recommendations for submission to the ACP Service has been scheduled tentatively for April 26.

HOW MUCH CORN FOR 1954?

The crop report for March indicates that Delaware farmers intend to plant five percent more corn in 1954 than last year. And nationally, farmers plan on 99.6 percent of last year's acreage.

Of course these estimates are based on data obtained before farmers had received their acreage allotments for corn. However, indications locally are that most farmers will plant their usual acreage of corn without regard to their corn acreage allotment.

Fortunately, we can't guess the weather and we wouldn't try to predict this fall's market. But we do urge farmers to consider pretty carefully the protection that price support offers. And we believe that it is high time to begin planning for, and even doing something about, the adjustments that must be made if the production of corn is to be brought into line with current demands.

The enclosed pamphlet "1954 Corn Acreage Allotments" outlines the general provisions of the corn allotment program.

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

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1954 CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS

Corn acreage allotments will be in effect throughout the commercial corn area in 1954, but there will be no corn marketing quotas.

The controlling legislation calls for acreage allotments every year, except under emergency conditions. It requires the proclamation of marketing quotas, in addition to the allotments, only when the total supply exceeds demand by a specified amount.

The total corn supply for the marketing year, which began last October 1, is estimated at 3,946,000,000 bushels. This is the second largest corn supply of record. It is enough to meet all domestic and export needs during this marketing year and leave a carryover this fall of nearly 900 million bushels—almost 30 percent more than the 1953 carryover.

This big supply obviously calls for acreage allotments. Therefore, in accordance with legislative provisions, the Secretary of Agriculture has announced acreage allotments for the commercial corn area in 1954. However, the total supply is not large enough to require marketing quotas.

The commercial corn area, which is established annually under a legislative formula, will include 834 counties in 22 States in 1954.

The total 1954 acreage allotment for the commercial area has been established at 46,995,504 acres—about 10 million acres less than the acreage planted in the same area last year.

This total, or “national,” allotment has been apportioned among the counties in the commercial area on the basis of planted acreage during the 10-year period from 1944 through 1953, with adjustments for participation in previous corn acreage-allotment programs, abnormal weather conditions, trends in acreage, and the promotion of soil-conservation practices.

County allotments have been divided among individual corn-producing farms, on the basis of the farm's past corn acreage and other production factors.

Farms outside the commercial corn area are not affected by corn acreage allotments. However, price support for corn produced on such farms will be at a lower rate than that for corn produced on farms in the commercial area.

YOUR FARM CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENT FOR 1954

1. If your farm is in the commercial area, and corn was grown in 1 or more of the 3 years—1951, 1952, or 1953—your farm is eligible for a corn acreage allotment.
2. The allotment is set by your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee on the basis of the acreage planted to corn in 1951, 1952, and 1953, with adjustments in the historical acreage if the committee determines that your acreage is not representative when compared with that of other farms which are similar with respect to tillable acreage, crop-rotation practices, type of soil, and topography. After the relationship is established among all farms in the county, all acreages are adjusted proportionately to come within the total number of acres available in the county corn acreage allotment.
3. If you did not plant corn on your farm in any of the 3 years—1951, 1952, or 1953—but filed a request for a 1954 allotment prior to the closing date for receiving such requests, an allotment may be established by the county ASC committee if it finds that the facts justify the allotment, and other necessary requirements are met.
4. If, after receiving notice of your farm acreage allotment, you have reason to believe that you have not received an equitable allotment, you may file an appeal, within 15 days from the mailing of the notice, with your county ASC committee for reconsideration. Instructions concerning the filing of such an appeal are included as a part of your official notice of acreage allotment.

PRICE SUPPORT FOR THE 1954 CORN CROP

1. The average price-support rate for the commercial corn-producing area will be the minimum rate, announced this spring, or 90 percent of parity on October 1, 1954, whichever is higher.

2. The level of price support outside the commercial corn-producing area will be $67\frac{1}{2}$ percent of parity—three-fourths of the rate in the commercial area.
3. Price-support provisions will be announced prior to planting time. As in the past, nonrecourse loans and purchase agreements will be used.
4. You will need to have adequate storage available to take full advantage of loan and purchase agreement programs. To help finance the construction or purchase of new cribs and bins, loans at 4 percent interest repayable in 4 yearly installments can be arranged through your county ASC committee. New income-tax provisions allow the amortization of the cost of new farm grain storage structures over a period of 5 years.

PRICE-SUPPORT ELIGIBILITY DEPENDS ON COOPERATION WITH ALLOTMENT PROGRAM

“Corn acreage,” for purposes of the acreage allotment program, means the number of acres on which corn is planted alone or interplanted with other crops, including sweet corn, used exclusively for feed or silage. Acreage planted to sweet corn will not be considered as corn if the ears are picked for market or processing.

1. If you have an interest in the corn crop on only one farm:

You will be eligible for price support on all or any part of your 1954-crop corn if the corn acreage on your farm does not exceed the farm acreage allotment.

You will not be entitled to price support on any of your 1954-crop corn if the corn acreage on your farm is in excess of the farm acreage allotment.

2. If you have an interest in the corn crop of two or more farms:

You will be eligible for price support on all or any part of your 1954-crop corn if the corn acreage on each farm does not exceed the farm acreage allotment for that farm.

But if the corn acreage on one or more of your farms is in excess of the corn acreage allotments for these farms, you will not be eligible for price support on the corn produced on such farms, and you may not be eligible for price support on any of your 1954-crop corn. (See your county ASC committee for further details.)

3. Cooperation with acreage allotment or marketing quota programs for other agricultural commodities will not be a condition of eligibility for price support for 1954-crop corn.
4. If you grow between 90 and 100 percent of your acreage allotment in 1954, your allotment will be considered as having been completely planted in the determination of any future allotments.

SEE YOUR COUNTY ASC COMMITTEE

If you have additional questions about acreage allotments, price supports, storage facility loans, or any other phases of the program, your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee will be glad to answer them for you.